

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/671,871

Applicant(s)

WARD ET AL.

Examiner

Vanel Frenel

Art Unit

3626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/28/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 10-21 and 24-28 and renumbered as 1-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☒ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JOSEPH THOMAS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This communication is in response to the Amendment filed on 3/28/06. Claims 6-9, 22-23 and 29-33 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 19 have been amended. Claims 1-5, 10-21 and 24-28 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1 and 19 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is directed to formulating a coherent presentation essentially integrating said information, said coherent presentation encompassing a multiplicity of tasks, said coherent presentation representing an operational plan for performing all of said tasks, the performance of each said task commencing in a said core management function unit, at least some said tasks being performed in plural said core management function units based on said at least one linkage of said individual workflow description with at least one other said individual workflow; uploading said coherent presentation to said server for storage in said centralized database, said coherent presentation being computer-accessible by said core management function units; performing at least one said task, said performance of at least one said task including use of said coherent presentation; and updating said coherent presentation at least once, each said updated coherent presentation being computer-accessible by said core management function units, each said updating including uploading at least a portion of a said individual

workflow description describing a said core management function so as to render at least one change to the preceding said individual workflow description describing the same said core management function, said at least one change including modification with respect to said at least one linkage of said individual workflow description with at least one other said individual workflow description.

The closest prior art of record, Hartsog (4,964,060), Normann et al (5,557,537) and Windchill 2.0 by Robert Mills. Computer-Aided Engineering. Cleveland: Mar 1999. Vol.18, Iss.3; pg. 22, 3 pgs disclose workflow management functions and improvements, however, do not disclose or fairly suggest formulating a coherent presentation essentially integrating said information, said coherent presentation encompassing a multiplicity of tasks, said coherent presentation representing an operational plan for performing all of said tasks, the performance of each said task commencing in a said core management function unit, at least some said tasks being performed in plural said core management function units based on said at least one linkage of said individual workflow description with at least one other said individual workflow; performing at least one said task, said performance of at least one said task including use of said coherent presentation; and updating said coherent presentation at least once, each said updated coherent presentation being computer-accessible by said core management function units, each said updating including uploading at least a portion of a said individual workflow description describing a said core management function so as to render at least one change to the preceding said individual workflow description describing the same said core management function, said at least one

change including modification with respect to said at least one linkage of said individual workflow description with at least one other said individual workflow description.

Hartsog teaches a method of organizing and effecting a dynamic workflow management system using a computer network that permits computer access to a server capable of containing a centralized database pertaining to said dynamic workflow management system, but does not disclose or fairly suggest uploading said coherent presentation to said server for storage in said centralized database, said coherent presentation being computer-accessible by said core management function units; performing at least one said task, said performance of at least one said task including use of said coherent presentation; and updating said coherent presentation at least once, each said updated coherent presentation being computer-accessible by said core management function units, each said updating including uploading at least a portion of a said individual workflow description describing a said core management function so as to render at least one change to the preceding said individual workflow description describing the same said core management function, said at least one change including modification with respect to said at least one linkage of said individual workflow description with at least one other said individual workflow description.

Normann teaches that the said core management function units, each said updating including uploading at least a portion of a said individual workflow description describing a said core management function so as to render at least one change to the preceding said individual workflow description describing the same said core management function, said at least one change including modification with respect to

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said at least one linkage of said individual workflow description with at least one other said individual workflow description but does not disclose or fairly suggest uploading said coherent presentation to said server for storage in said centralized database, said coherent presentation being computer-accessible by said core management function units.

Claim 19 is directed to formulating a manual that is at least substantially arranged in accordance with said organizational units and said refined core functions respectively performed by said organizational units, manual covering at least substantially all of the undertakings of said organizational, said manual at least substantially incorporating said informational segments so as to prescribe said flow of management operations both intrarelationally within each said organizational unit and interrelationally between said organizational units, the functional flow associated with each said refined core function being characterized by at least one nexus between said functional flow and the functional flow associated with at least one other refined function but does not disclose or fairly suggest wherein each said undertaking that requires action to be taken by at least two said organizational units is carried out in accordance with at least one said nexus between two said functional flows associated with said refined core functions respectively performed by said at least two said organizational units. None of the prior art cited above teaches maintaining currency of said manual as stored in said central computer, said maintaining currency including electronically modifying of said manual, by at least one said organizational unit, with respect to at

least one nexus between the respective functional flows associated with at least two said refined functions.

3. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement for Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vanel Frenel whose telephone number is 571-272-6769. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on 571-272-6776. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

V.F
V.F

June 21, 2006


JOSEPH THOMAS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER